

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A method of using an alignment device for performing a compound ablation in the body of a patient, the alignment device having a plurality of apertures, comprising:

affixing an alignment device relative to targeted tissue, wherein the apertures are located external to the body;

guiding an ablation probe within a first ~~aperture in the alignment device~~ one of the externally located apertures to place the ablation probe adjacent the targeted tissue in a first region;

operating the ablation probe to create a first lesion in the first region;

guiding the ablation probe within a second different ~~aperture in the alignment device~~ one of the externally located apertures to place the ablation probe adjacent the targeted tissue in a second region; and

operating the ablation probe again to create a second lesion in the second region.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising completely removing the ablation probe from the first aperture prior to guiding the ablation probe within the second aperture.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein alternate guiding and operating of the ablation probe is performed for a plurality of regions until the entire target tissue is ablated.

26. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the ablation probe is guided within the first and second apertures in parallel directions.

27. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the ablation probe is guided within the first and second apertures in non-parallel directions.

28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the alignment device comprises a boss or a recess associated within the first aperture, the method further comprising modifying a distance that the ablation probe is guided within the first aperture by abutting a portion of the ablation probe against the boss or recess.

29. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the ablation probe is operated by generating RF energy to create the first and second lesions.

30-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the ablation probe is percutaneously guided within the first and second apertures into the body of the patient.

34. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the target tissue is a tumor.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of using an alignment device for performing a compound ablation in the body of a patient, the alignment device having a plurality of apertures, comprising:

affixing an alignment device relative to targeted tissue, wherein the apertures are located external to the body;

guiding a plurality of ablation probes within ~~a respective plurality of~~ respective ones of the externally located apertures in the alignment device to place the ablation probes adjacent the targeted tissue in a plurality of regions, and

sequentially operating sets of the ablation probes to create a plurality of lesions in the plurality of regions.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the plurality of ablation probes are operated by transmitting RF energy between at least two of the ablation probes.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the entire target tissue is ablated.

38. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the ablation probes are guided within the plurality of apertures in parallel directions.

39. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the ablation probes are guided within the plurality of apertures in non-parallel directions.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the alignment device comprises one or more bosses or recesses associated within one or more of the plurality of apertures, the method further comprising modifying a distance that one or more of the ablation probes are guided within one or more of the plurality of apertures by abutting a portion of the one or more ablation probes against the one or more bosses or recesses.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the one or more bosses or recesses comprises a plurality of bosses or recesses.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the bosses or recesses have differing lengths.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein one or more bosses or apertures is associated with one or more inserts, wherein one or more inserts are removably mounted.

44. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the ablation probes are operated by generating RF energy to create the plurality of lesions.

45-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~47~~ 35, wherein the ablation probes are percutaneously guided within the plurality of apertures into the body of the patient.

49. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the target tissue is a tumor.

50-69. (Cancelled)

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the ablation probe has a cannula and at least one electrode deployable from the cannula, the method further comprising deploying the at least one electrode from the cannula into the first region prior to creating the first lesion and deploying the at least one electrode from the cannula into the second region prior to creating the second lesion.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, wherein the at least one electrode comprises a plurality of tissue-piercing electrode tines configured to be deployed radially outward.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein each probe set comprises a single probe.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein each probe set comprises a pair of probes.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein each of the plurality of ablation probes has a cannula and at least one electrode deployable from the cannula, the method further comprising deploying the at least one electrode from each cannula into a respective one of the plurality of regions prior to creating a lesion in the respective region.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, wherein the at least one electrode of each ablation probe comprises a plurality of tissue-piercing electrode tines configured to be deployed radially outward.

76. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the alignment device is affixed to skin of the patient.

77. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the alignment device is bonded to the patient.

78. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the alignment device is planar.

79. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the alignment device is affixed to skin of the patient.

80. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the alignment device is bonded to the patient.

81. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the alignment device is planar.